

Claims

1. A bait holding apparatus comprising:
 - a resiliently deformable receptacle having an open end and an opposing closed end, the bait being insertable into the receptacle through the open end
 - 5 and, once inserted, the receptacle being resiliently deformable around the bait, the receptacle extending seamlessly around the closed end and lateral side(s) thereof; and
 - a plurality of apertures defined in the receptacle such that, when the bait is placed therein, the predator can sense the bait via the apertures.
- 10 2. Apparatus as claim in claim 1 wherein the receptacle is an elongate sleeve into which the bait can be inserted.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the open end is reinforced.
4. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the apertures are a plurality of holes formed in the receptacle to define a perforated or grid-
15 like formation around the bait in use.
5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the closed end is adapted to provide a line attachment point thereto.
6. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the closed end has an aerodynamic profile to enhance movement of the apparatus through a
20 fluid such as water.
7. A bait holding apparatus comprising a plurality of rings in series through each of which the bait can be inserted, with each ring connected to a next adjacent ring by one or more connecting members.
8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein each ring is deformable and defines
25 part of a lateral side of the receptacle.
9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 or 8 wherein bait is inserted to extend through each of the rings in series.
10. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9 wherein two connecting members maintain adjacent rings in spaced relation to each other.
- 30 11. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the receptacle or each of the rings is formed from an elastomeric material having shape memory.
12. A bait holding apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 35 13. A method for forming an apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 comprising the steps of:
 - dipping a mandrel into molten material for the receptacle;

- removing the mandrel and allowing the receptacle to solidify around the mandrel;
 - forming a plurality of apertures in the receptacle, either whilst on the mandrel, or once removed therefrom.
- 5 14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the apertures are formed in the sleeve by pressing, punching or cutting.
- 15 15. A method for forming an apparatus as defined in any one of claims 7 to 10 comprising the steps of:
- arranging a sheet of deformable material on a substrate;
 - 10 - forming in and then removing from the sheet a plurality of adjacent but non-overlapping rings, and such that at least one connecting member extends between adjacent rings.
16. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the rings and connecting member(s) are formed by pressing, punching or cutting the sheet.
- 15 17. A method as claimed in claim 15 or 16 wherein two connecting members are defined to extend between adjacent rings, one being tangential to an upper part of each ring and the other being tangential to a lower part of each ring.
18. A method for forming a bait holding apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 20 19. A bait holding apparatus formed from a material having a plurality of apertures therethrough that has a shape that enables it to be positioned to surround the bait in a close-facing relationship, in a manner that tends to preserve the structural integrity of the bait, wherein the apparatus comprises:
- the apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12;
 - 25 • a metallic mesh receptacle; or
 - one or more ties or tapes having apertures therethrough and which can be wrapped around the bait in the close-facing relationship.
20. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the metallic mesh is a perforated or apertured stainless steel mesh.
- 30 21. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the ties or tapes are arranged in a grid formation for wrapping around the bait, the grid defining the apertures therethrough, with free ends of the ties or tapes being fastenable together to define the receptacle.
22. A bait holding apparatus comprising:
- 35 - a receptacle in which the bait can be held and including an opening through which the bait can be introduced into the receptacle; and
- a closure for the receptacle opening and about which the receptacle can be

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releasably attached to close the opening.

23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the closure has one or more passages extending therethrough such that fluid can flow from the apparatus exterior and into the receptacle interior.
- 5 24. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 or claim 23 wherein the closure is a bung having a peripheral recess defined at one end thereof into which a skirt portion of the receptacle opening can be releasably fastened.
25. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein the skirt portion is retained in the recess by a tie or ring extending circumferentially therearound.
- 10 26. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 25 further comprising an attractor device associated with the closure.
27. Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein the attractor device includes filaments attached to the closure, colouring of the closure, reflective material at or dispersed through the closure, or shaping of the closure.
- 15 28. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 27 wherein the receptacle is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12 or 19.
29. A bait holding apparatus comprising:
- a receptacle in which the bait can be held and including an opening through which the bait can be introduced into the receptacle; and
 - 20 - a closure for the receptacle opening and having one or more passages extending therethrough such that fluid can flow from the apparatus exterior and into the receptacle interior.
30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29 wherein the receptacle is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12, 19 or 22 and the closure is as defined in any one of claims 22
- 25 31. A bait holding apparatus comprising a plurality of ties, each tie connected to one or two adjacent ties and each having a fastening mechanism associated with opposite ends thereof such that each tie can be wrapped around the bait and fastened at or near its ends.
- 30 32. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31 wherein each tie is connected to one or two adjacent ties by one or more transversally extending ties to define a tie grid.
33. Apparatus as claimed in claim 32 wherein each transversally extending tie is insertable through a respective slot in each of the plurality of ties.
34. Apparatus as claimed in claim 33 wherein each transversally extending tie is interferingly receivable in its respective slot in each of the plurality of ties.
- 35 35. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 34 wherein the fastening mechanism is:

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- free tie ends that can be tied together to fasten the apparatus to the bait; or
 - a slotted head at one tie end and a free end at the other tie end that is receivable interferingly through the slot of its head to fasten the apparatus to the bait.
- 5 36. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 33 to 35 wherein sides of the other tie free end, or of each transversally extending tie, are serrated.
37. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 36 wherein each tie is a flat tape-like member, or is generally circular in cross-section.
38. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 37 wherein each tie is formed from an elastomeric material.
- 10 39. An applicator for a bait holding apparatus that has a deformable opening to a receptacle, the applicator also being suitable for an apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12, 19 or 22 to 39, the applicator comprising a receptacle insertion end adapted for insertion into the opening of the receptacle to deformably open the same to facilitate bait insertion, and a bait guiding surface extending from the insertion end and over which the bait can be moved, with the bait guiding surface extending towards an applicator remote end for protruding beyond the receptacle when the applicator is inserted in the receptacle opening to facilitate applicator handling by a user.
- 15 40. An applicator as claimed in claim 39 that is generally flat and, in plan view, that gradually tapers from a relatively wider remote end to a relatively narrower insertion end, with the bait guiding surface being defined on both sides of the applicator.
- 20 41. An applicator as claimed in claim 39 or 40 wherein one or more guide channels are provided on the bait guiding surface to facilitate guidance of the bait towards and in through the receptacle opening.
- 25 42. An applicator as claimed in any one of claims 39 to 41 wherein one or more finger holes are provided at the remote end to facilitate user handling of the applicator.
43. An applicator as claimed in any one of the claims 39 to 42 that has a concave guiding surface, defining an elongate channel extending between the insertion and remote ends.
- 30 44. An applicator for a bait holding apparatus substantially herein described with reference to Figures 17 and 18 of the accompanying drawings.